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a1 25. (amended) The method of claim 24 wherein said audio is presented continuously during transitions between user interface pages.

29. (newly added) The system of claim 1, wherein:
each user interface page is encoded using slice based encoding wherein each of said common moving image video and respective graphical regions are represented by respective pluralities of encoded slices.

30. (newly added) The method of claim 8, wherein:
each user interface page is encoded using slice based encoding wherein each of said common moving image video and respective graphical regions are represented by respective pluralities of encoded slices.

31. (newly added) The method of claim 18, wherein:
each user interface page is encoded using slice based encoding wherein each of said common moving image video and respective graphical regions are represented by respective pluralities of encoded slices.

REMARKS

This amendment is intended as a full and complete response to the Action mailed July 3, 2002. In the Action, the Examiner notes that claims 1-28 are pending, of which claims 1-28 stand rejected. By this amendment, claims 1-2, 5, 8-9, 11-12, 16-18 and 20-25 are amended, claims 10, 14-15, 19 and 26-28 are cancelled, claims 3-4, 6-7 and 13 continue unamended, and new claims 29-31 have been added.

In view of both the amendments presented above and the following discussion, the applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are non-enabling, anticipated, or obvious under the respective provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112, §102, and §103. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

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It is to be understood that the applicants, by amending the claims, do not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterizations of the art of record or to applicants' subject matter recited in the pending claims. Further, applicants are not acquiescing to the Examiner's statements as to the applicability of the prior art of record to the pending claims by filing the instant responsive amendments.

Objections

A. IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The applicants have amended the specification to supply a missing Serial No. referenced on page 6.

B. IN THE CLAIMS

The Examiner has objected to claims 26-28 due to an identified informality. However, in view of the cancellation of claims 26-28, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is moot.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5 and 7-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Terasawa et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,147,714, issued November 14, 2000). The applicants respectfully traverse.

The Terasawa patent fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 1 (at least as amended) as follows:

"A system for generating and using an interactive user interface comprising:

a head end for generating a plurality of bitstreams representing an encoded user interface, each of said bitstreams including a respective user interface page, each user interface page comprising a common moving image video region and a respective graphical region;

a distribution network coupled to said head end; and
subscriber equipment, coupled to said distribution network, for decoding and displaying a user interface page extracted from a selected bitstream."

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In contrast to the above-quoted claim language, the Terasawa arrangement does not produce "bitstreams including a respective user interface page, each user interface page comprising a common moving imagery video region and a respective graphical region" It is noted that, among other differences, any imagery associated with a user interface page within the Terasawa arrangement utilizes still imagery, rather than the moving imagery claimed herein.

"Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim" (Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 730 F.2d 1452, 221 U.S.P.Q. 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984)(citing Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 722 F.2d 1542, 220 U.S.P.Q. 193 (Fed. Cir. 1983)) (emphasis added). The Terasawa reference fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, as arranged in the claim.

As such, the applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated and fully satisfies the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §102 and is patentable thereunder. Moreover, since independent claims 8 and 18 include relevant limitations similar to those provided by claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 8 and 18 are also patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102 for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, all the remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, 8 or 18 and recite additional features thereof. As such, and for at least the same reasons discussed above, the applicants submit that these dependent claims also fully satisfy the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious and unpatentable over Terasawa in view of the McLaren patent (U.S. Patent No.

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5,867,208, issued February 2, 1999). The rejection is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the Terasawa patent and McLaren patent, either singly or in any operable combination, fail to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 6 as follows:

"The system of claim 1 wherein the distribution network is a hybrid fiber-coax network."

As noted above with respect to claim 1, claim 6 is patentable because it depends from claim 1. As such, the applicants submit that claims 1 and 6 are not obvious and fully satisfy the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder. It is further noted that the Terasawa reference is directed to control apparatus and methods for displaying an electronic program guide within the context of a satellite communications system. It is also noted that the portion of McLaren cited by the Examiner (column 5, lines 52-55) does not specifically teach a "hybrid fiber-coax network" as claimed. Rather, the cited portion refers to "other" transmission methods such as "cable distribution through coaxial cable, fiber optic transmission, microwave transmission or other means." Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Newly Added Claims

Applicants have added new claims 29-31. Applicants respectfully submit that such new claims are supported by the specification and do not add new matter. Applicants further submit that such claims are patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to the patentability of claims 1, 8 and 18 from which they depend.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, the specification and abstract have been amended as

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requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Eamon J. Wall at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

10/3/02

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APPENDIX I
MARKED-UP SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, line 8 through page 6, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

The head-end 102, which carries the most user interface-related processing power and storage capability, comprises a user interface graphics generation/storage unit 108, video source 110, compositor 112, encoding unit 114, multiplexer 116, video modulator 118, a video session manager (VSM) 120 or multiple VSM' s depending on the viewer/subscriber load, and a video server 122. The IPG generation and encoding apparatus is disclosed in further detail within commonly assigned U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/359,561, filed on July 22, 1999 [] (Attorney docket number 168 CIP1), filed simultaneously herewith] and incorporated herein by reference.

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APPENDIX II

MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

1. (amended) A system for generating and using an interactive user interface comprising:
 - a head end for generating a plurality of bitstreams representing an encoded user interface, each of said bitstreams including a respective user interface page, each user interface page comprising a common moving image video region and a respective graphical region;
 - a distribution network coupled to said head end; and
 - subscriber equipment, coupled to said distribution network, for decoding and displaying [said]a user interface page extracted from a selected bitstream.
2. (amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the head end comprises:
 - a user interface generator for producing said plurality of bitstreams; and
 - a modulator.
5. (amended) The system of claim 4 wherein said user interface generator [produces a plurality of bitstreams and]further comprises a [multitplexer]multiplexer for assigning bitstream identifiers to each of said bitstreams in said plurality of bitstreams.
8. (amended) A method of generating [and using]an interactive user interface comprising the steps of:
 - generating, within a head end of an information distribution system, a plurality of bitstreams representing an encoded user interface, each of said bitstreams including a respective user interface page, each user interface page comprising a common moving image video region and a respective graphical region; and
 - broadcasting said encoded user interface;

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said user interface being adapted for use by a subscriber selectively decoding and presenting said common video and respective graphical region for each of at least one of said plurality of bitstreams.

[receiving said encoded user interface; and
decoding and displaying said user interface.]

9. (amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said generating step further comprises the steps of:

producing a plurality of video signals representing [a]said user interface pages;

encoding said plurality of video signals to produce said bitstreams; and
modulating said bitstreams into a format for transmission.

11. (amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of assigning a respective bitstream Identifier value to each of said plurality of bitstreams.

12. (amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said generating step further comprises the steps of:

[producing a plurality of video signals representing a plurality of user interfaces;

encoding said video signals to produce a plurality of bitstreams; and]
arranging said bitstreams into at least one transport stream; and
modulating said at least one transport stream into a format for

transmission.

16. (amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

[selecting]receiving an indication of the selection of an object within[the] a presented user interface; and

[sending a signal to the head end in response to the selection of the object; and]

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causing an event to occur within said head end in response to said signal.

17. (amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said event is [one or more of] at least one of causing the tuning [said] of subscriber equipment to an analog channel, causing the tuning of said subscriber equipment to a digital channel, and causing a [locally resident] subscriber equipment event to occur.

18. (amended) A method of [generating and]using an interactive user interface comprising the steps of:

[generating, within a head end of an information distribution system,] receiving a transport stream that contains a plurality of bitstreams representing a respective plurality of encoded user interface[s] pages, each page comprising a common moving image video region and a respective graphical region;

[broadcasting said transport stream;

receiving said transport stream;]

extracting from said transport stream a first selected bitstream; [and]

decoding and [displaying] presenting said selected bitstream to produce a corresponding first[said] user interface page;

selecting, in said first user interface page, an object that identifies a second bitstream; and

decoding said second selected bitstream without resetting a buffer in a decoder.

20. (amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
producing an overlay graphic for selectively emphasizing objects within
said presented user interface page.

21. (amended) The method of claim 20 further comprising the steps of:

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selecting an emphasized object to change the context of the system from a user interface context to an alternate context.

22. (amended) The method of claim 21 wherein said alternate context [is changed to] comprises one of a pay per view movie context, a broadcast television context, a preview context [or a sales] and an electronic commerce context.

23. (amended) The method of claim 21 wherein changing the context causes the decoder to extract[a different bitstream] for decoding a bitstream associated with said alternate context.

24. (amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising decoding and presenting an audio bitstream [that is] associated with [a] said common video region of said user interface pages.

25. (amended) The method of claim 24 wherein said audio is presented continuously [through] during transitions [to other] between user interface[s] pages.

29. (newly added) The system of claim 1, wherein:
each user interface page is encoded using slice based encoding wherein each of said common moving image video and respective graphical regions are represented by respective pluralities of encoded slices.

30. (newly added) The method of claim 8, wherein:
each user interface page is encoded using slice based encoding wherein each of said common moving image video and respective graphical regions are represented by respective pluralities of encoded slices.

31. (newly added) The method of claim 18, wherein:

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each user interface page is encoded using slice based encoding wherein each of said common moving image video and respective graphical regions are represented by respective pluralities of encoded slices.